

State Election 2026

A Chance for Real Change

In the wake of the Royal Commission into domestic, family and sexual violence, we have a critical opportunity. The State Government elected in 2026 must ensure that its investment changes the trajectory for victim-survivors, including children and young people, and reduces the prevalence of domestic, family and sexual violence across our communities.

Embolden outlined the specialist domestic, family and sexual violence sector's asks in its submissions and responses to the Royal Commission, and in its statement on the State Government response. What we need now is a State Government that is transparent around funding decisions and committed to working in genuine partnership with the specialist sector and people with lived experience through the reform process.

Ensuring that South Australians, regardless of who they are and where they live, realise the full benefit of the Royal Commission will require actioning and funding recommendations that have been accepted in principle and for future consideration. South Australian lives depend on it.

Embolden's Five Key Asks

1 Invest in communities to lead change

Community organisations must be resourced to provide integrated, place-based supports that can intervene earlier with families and facilitate community-led prevention, as well as recovery and healing. Accessible and culturally safe services – such as those delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, multicultural and LGBTIQ+ services, regional services and those that deliver specialised responses to children – are vital for the safety and wellbeing of all victim-survivors and to prevent future violence.

2 Support Frontline Services to Meet Demand

Every part of the service system is interconnected, across early intervention, crisis response, and recovery and healing. Each must be adequately resourced to ensure victim-survivors and people using violence are appropriately referred and supported when they reach out for help. While the State Government has committed to a modest funding uplift for crisis response, the reform process will drive increased demand statewide.

Our frontline domestic, family and sexual violence services have been chronically under-funded for a long time. We need much greater investment to meet rising demand and complexity or risk continuing to fail victim-survivors, including children and young people and people experiencing sexual violence. We must also invest in data capability for the sector to enable us to effectively capture and understand demand in SA, and to ensure the design and reform of systems and services responds to need.

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3

Strengthen Interventions with People Using Violence

To change the trajectory of violence in SA, our focus must be on intervening earlier with people using violence, at key junctures. We owe it to victim-survivors, including children and young people. We must not lose the opportunity to intervene with people using violence on and exiting remand. Developing and piloting a diversionary scheme also presents a crucial opportunity to support behaviour change.

4

Legislate for an Independent Monitor

We must be able to identify the outcomes and impacts of South Australia's domestic, family and sexual violence strategy and system reforms. Genuine transparency and accountability demand a monitor that is independent of government, whose powers are embedded in legislation. Embolden calls for a South Australian Commissioner for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence.

5

Invest in the Specialist Workforce

The State Government has committed to developing a domestic, family and sexual violence workforce strategy but without an accompanying commitment of funding. Real investment in our specialist workforce is essential to ensure that our skilled and committed sector can:

- meet the challenges of increasing demand and complexity;
- respond to the diverse needs of victim-survivors, including those needing longer-term therapeutic supports, such as survivors of childhood sexual abuse;
- work effectively with people using violence;
- respond to emerging contexts such as coercive control laws and Social Worker registration; and ensure effective service delivery in regional and remote areas.

